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## BOOK REVIEWS.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON TWENTY-FIVE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LEGAL SUBJECTS.—Second Edition. By Wilber A. Owen, LL. M., of the Toledo, Ohio, bar. St. Paul, Minnesota, 1900. West Publishing Company. pp. v, 613.

Mr. Owen has adopted the plan of choosing one book (usually one of the Horn book series) on each topic, and drawing his answers chiefly from that; where he alters the definitions he has almost always secured greater clearness and accuracy. It is, of course, impossible in a work of this kind which is intended for general use in all the States, to treat subjects with reference to statutory law, and while the author tries to give proper warnings, it is necessary for a student to bear this limitation in mind, if he is not to be misled. Upon the subjects which are governed by commercial law and custom, or where the common law is generally unaltered, a brief, clear review of the leading principles and more important definitions is given, which should be of much assistance to a person preparing for examination, and the method adopted of following pretty closely one book on each topic renders it easy to extend the review if desired.

The subjects which may be especially mentioned are Sales, Negotiable Instruments, Suretyship, Partnership and Corporations. Upon the last topic there are frequent references to Clark and Beach, and occasional ones to Thompson and Morawetz. It is difficult to cover satisfactorily the ground in Contracts in little over one hundred questions, but good judgment is shown in their choice. On the subjects of Real Property, Trusts (treated by the author briefly under the general head of equity) and Pleading, civil and criminal, the book is of less value to the New York student. For the kind of examination in vogue here a few years ago, involving many calls for definitions, it furnishes a remarkably good eleventh hour review, and even for the more recent kind, consisting of problems to be solved, it is of use to get a few leading principles and definitions clearly in the mind.

THE LAW IN ITS RELATIONS TO PHYSICIANS.—By Arthur W. Taylor, LL. B., of the New York Bar. New York, 1900. D. Appleton & Co. pp. iv, 550.

This book was written for the medical profession. Its object is to inform physicians of their rights and obligations, and to elucidate and illustrate, in some degree, the legal principles upon which these rights and obligations depend. This knowledge is scattered throughout the innumerable volumes of legal reports, and is, of course, inaccessible to the medical profession, and the author in collecting and arranging cases, illustrating this special field of the law, has per-

formed a valuable service for the medical profession. The statutes regulating the right to practice medicine in the various states are given and explained. The contract relations between the physician and patient and the liability of third parties are carefully pointed out and illustrated by cases.

The chapter dealing with the Civil and Criminal liability of physicians for malpractice is particularly useful. The style and arrangement are excellent, and the author's comments are so clear that the intelligent layman should have no difficulty in understanding what the law is, and the reasons upon which it is based. The author's plan of illustrating the legal principles by quoting freely from the well-considered opinions of Judges in leading and typical cases, instead of from text books, is particularly to be commended. The author's object as set forth in the preface has been admirably carried out, and medical men will find the work an exceedingly valuable addition to their libraries.

AMERICAN LAW. A Treatise on the Jurisprudence, Constitution and Laws of the United States. By James De Witt Andrews. Chicago: Callaghan & Company. 1900. pp. cxii, 1245.

"America's Greatest Institutional Law Book."—PUBLISHER.

"The achievement of a great design."—CHIEF JUSTICE, U. S. C. A.

"A great work and undoubtedly placed upon a true philosophical basis."—JUSTICE COURT OF APPEALS AND PROFESSOR OF LAW.

"It will take the place Blackstone has too long occupied in the study of law in America for want of such a work."—JUDGE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FIRST PRESIDENT STATE BAR ASSOCIATION.

"Neither Blackstone, nor Kent, nor Story, nor Greenleaf, surpasses it."—LAW REVIEW.

"In respect of its style the work will stand among the first legal classics of England and America."—LAW REVIEW.

"Every elementary topic in the legal field is adequately expounded. The whole work is an analytical outline of the law, so well arranged, so thoroughly done, so excellently proportioned, that it is but just to speak of it as a splendid specimen of what may be called legal literary architecture."—PROFESSOR OF LAW, IN LEGAL NEWS.

It is an ungrateful task which devolves upon the belated reviewer of this much-lauded work, and the publisher, who has had his head turned by the indiscriminate praise with which it has been received, may well doubt whether any capacity for judgment really exists in the profession to which it is addressed. It would be impertinent to inquire too closely into the mental operations of the jurists and statesmen who have committed themselves thus unreservedly to an indorsement of this book. For, of a score or more of reviews which have come under the observation of the writer of this notice, only one indicates that that confusion of judgment was invited which, according to Sidney Smith, results from the mischievous practice of reading a book before reviewing it. It is a charitable as well as the only reasonable explanation of the treatment which this work has